Mrs N. Fanny Ardt

The Bloomfield Record.

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LITERATURE OF THE DAY.

THE PROJECTOR OF THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

Speaking of the late Judge Marshall a correspondent writes: It may be mentioned as an interesting feature in Marshall's history that he was the projector of the Washington Monument. The facts are as follows: The City of Washington had just been occupied as the National Capitol when the "Father of his Country" was removed by death. When this sad event occurred a joint Committee of the Senate and House was appointed to "consider a suitable mode for commemorating General Washington.' John Marshall, as Chairman of this Committee, presented a resolution "that a marble monument be erected at the City of Washington, and that the family of General Washington be requested to permit his body to be deposited under it, and that the monument be so designated as to commemorate the great events of his military and political life." It was also resolved that Mrs. Washington should be entreated to give her assent to the interment of the General in the above-mentioned manner. The funeral, however, was over, and the General had been buried in the family vault before this communication was received, and the idea of a removal of the remains was very distressing to the illustrious widow. She replied, however, in an appropriate letter to the President, in which she submitted to the National request, but added, "in doing this, I need not, I cannot say what a sacrifice of personal feelings I make to a sense of public duty." The request was therefore waived out of respect for this truly noble woman, but the monument has always been a popular idea and will eventually reach completion.

BURIED AT MIDNIGHT.

There is an old English law according to which a suicide is commanded to be buried at midnight at a cross road, with a stake driven through his heart. It may be remembered that Charles Dickens consigned Quilp to this end at the end at the conclusion of the "Old Curiosity Shop." This law has become obsolete in part, but that one part of it is still in force is shown by the case of James Holmes, who cut his throat at Tiverton, last December. Holmes was a factory hand, and took his life at a period of great mental depression. The coroner held an inquest, and the jury returned a verdict in accordance with the [illegible] issued a warrant for the burial between the hours of nine and twelve at night. Two railway navvies, assisted by a policeman, dug the grave under the superintendence of another police constable, the spot selected being on the verge of the Nonconformist ground of the Tiverton cemetery, and close under the hedge. The Rev. J. P. Carey, Baptist minister, who conducted the funeral, writes:

"The verdict of the jury on James Holmes has caused those of us who knew him best unspeakable surprise and pain. Some years ago, Hugh Miller, the pious and accomplished writer on geology, shot himself through the heart. If James Holmes was criminal, then Hugh Miller was. But a nature highly sensitive in feeling is more likely to be overborne by its very constitution than an ordinary one.

"James Holmes was a devout, humble, deeply affectionate young man, of irreproachable moral character. For some time previous to his death he had been in feeble health, and lately the helpless and painful condition of his mother was the straw that broke down his loving nature. The verdict of the jury will, I am sure, be reversed by the sentiment of the town, "We buried him darkly at dead of night.' Are not the legal accessories of private interment in the night a relic of barbarism and a needless punishment of the living for the dead? Have not the friends enough to suffer in the fact that that their relative had died a violent death? I have to thank the large crowd who gathered at the interment for their kindly self-restrainst under peculiarly trying circumstances. In the absence of the sexton the best arrangements possible were made, but the verdict being rendered so late necessarily prevented much being done to insure decency and order. The conduct of the police and of the undertaker was most humane and admirable."

Yet Englishmen never tire of talking of the barbarism of American lynch law.—*N. Y. Dispatch.*

A HUMORIST'S LAST JOKE.

Artemus Ward had a great longing to come to London and give his lecture at the Egyptian Hall. That longing was destined to be gratified; but it was the last. He thought "The Mormons" would do very well, and it did. He knew his lungs were affected, and he knew he must die; but he did not know quite how soon. He came here in 1867. He was soon unable to continue his entertainment. "In the fight between youth and death," writes his friend Robertson, "death was to conquer." His doctor sent him to Jersey; but the sea breezes did him no good. He wrote, genial and sympathetic to the end, that "his loneliness weighed on him." He tried to get back to town, but only got as far as Southampton; there many friends went down from London to see the last of him—two at a time. Hingston never left him, and the Consul of the United States was full of the kindliest attentions. A wealthy American had offered the Prince of Wales a handsome American-built yacht. "It seems, old fellow," said Artemus, as he made his last joke to Hingston, who sat by him—"it seems the fashion for every one to present the Prince of Wales with something. I think I shall leave him my panoramas." His cheerfulness seldom left him, except when he thought of his old mother, and then he would grow terribly sad. But the end was at hand. "Charles Browne," writes his friend Robertson in modest but feeling terms, "died beloved and regretted by all who knew him, and when he drew his last breath there passed away the spirit of a true gentleman."—*Good Words.*

"AN INFANT PHENOMENON."

Once in a thousand years or so there appears on earth a child phenomenon, seemingly produced by nature as a sample of what she expects to do constantly a few million years hence. Such an one is a boy painter by the name of DeWitt Lockman, ten years old in years and a hundred in knowledge. He was kept a year on black and white by his teacher, at which he fretted and fumed in his anxiety to grasp color. When once he placed a pallette on his thumb, he began to show what was in him. Within a few days he has painted a horse, a study from life, with a precision of touch and absolute truth of color, a boldness and freedom that would excite admiration if it were proved to be the work of an old artist. Beard, on first seeing it, was struck speechless with surprise. He says there are not three men in the country who can paint such a picture of a horse. The boy is a handsome, curly-pated little piece of mischief, with black eyes luminous with the fire of genius. In fact, he is the only real genius of my acquaintance. His parents are not educating him physically as they should. He rides to and from the studio, and is the object of as much watchful care as if he were a delicate parian statuette that might fall from its pedestal and break to pieces. What he needs is to rough it in the streets with the hardiest boys and come home with a black eye at least once a week. Under such scholastic training there is a chance of his pulling through, although it did not save Sandford, that boy phenomenon, to whom the Differential Calculus was A B C, and Latin and Greek mere fairy stories.—*N. Y. Correspondence Louisville Courier-Journal.*

THE GREAT RINGMASTER.

Widdecombe the ringmaster, *the* Widdecombe, must not be forgotten. Picture to yourself a short, stout, swarthy man, clad in the most resplendent uniform, profusely decorated with various orders. His long black hair, well annointed and perfumed, was parted over a low *forehead*, and hung in ringlets across the broadest and whitest of shirt-collars, open at the throat, and worn *a la* Byron. His eyebrows and mustaches were trimmed to perfection, and his [illegible] and highly polished, were at once objects of envy and admiration. Mild and unassuming in private life, his natty person was as well known in the streets of Lambeth as that of John Bright in the House of Commons. He served the various managements at this house for a period of four-and-thirty years, and died in 1854, at the age of 67.—*Chambers's Journal.*

ARAB WOMEN.

Most Arab women tattoo; the old women dye their hair a dull red color and frizzle and pull it down over their faces. Nothing can be more hideously ugly than an old Arab woman; but I cannot imagine anything more beautiful than a young Arab girl, say from thirteen to sixteen years of age, and who has been brought up in the same house. They have beautiful forms, small feet and arms, large black eyes, round chin, small rosy lips, white teeth, and very smooth, good complexion. They wear their hair plaited and thrown back to hang down over their shoulders and back. They soon fade, however, and become as ugly as they were before beautiful. In the towns the women cover their faces when on the street in the sight of men, but they like to have Christians see them, and will uncover their faces if no Musselman is looking.

GROWTH AND WEIGHT OF CHILDREN.

Some interesting studies with reference to the health and growth of children have been made by Dr. Boulton, of the Samaritan Hospital, London. Instead of taking the average of a large number of children measured once, he adopted the plan of measuring a number of children of normal growth, brought up under average circumstances, many times, thus ascertaining their rate of increase. By this means the annual rate of growth was found to vary between two and three inches for each child per year. Dr. Boulton believes that when a child varies more than a quarter of an inch annually, or when the increase of weight does not correspond with the height within the margin of safety—put it at seven pounds—then it is safe to conclude the child's diet is not good, or possibly some disease is lurking in his system. The curious fact appears that loss of weight always precedes the development of consumption.

When things seem at their worst there may be a sudden turn in the road that will reveal to you help just at hand.

Self-interest rules the world; but it makes as many purblind, as it does others farseeing.

With energy for the sails, discretion the helm, common sense the ballast, the good ship rides out the gale, and makes the port of success at last.

Some men are like base drums, the more hollow they are the more noise they make.—*Exchange.*

It is well to remember that all tyrants have died a violent death.